

# THE

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This unique manuscript volume contains the only records covering all the varieties of the Connecticut cents minted by the State of Connecticut between the years of 1785 and 1788, [1785: 24; 1786: 16; 1787: 58; 1788: 28], both inclusive, made by Thomas Hall, M.D., of Boston, one of the greatest authorities on American Coinage. His "A Descriptive List of the Coppers, Issued by Authority, For the State of Connecticut, For the Year, 1787," privately printed by him in Boston, 1892, for additions and corrections, is the only critical one published devoted exclusively to Connecticut Coinage.

This volume and the accompanying collection of 126 coins, upon the death of Dr. Hall, came into the possession of the late Robert Bird, Town Treasurer of Canton, Massachusetts. At his death the collection and Records were purchased in 1918 by Frank H. Shumway, a native of Windham, Connecticut, living in Mattapan, Massachusetts, from whom it was secured by the State Library, Jan. 21, 1919.

Geo S. Godard  
State Librarian

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Accession Notice -- Dr. Hall's "Later Notes" on Connecticut's

Sequential page 849

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# CONNECTICUT COPPERS

EDWARD R. BARNSLEY

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● DR. HALL'S "LATER NOTES" on CONNECTICUTS ● (RF-28A)

The name of Dr. Thomas P. Hall, student of Early American coinage, is virtually unknown by present day numismatists, even though he was one of the leading collectors and writers in this field a century ago. His chief interest was in the Connecticut series, but his researches were by no means limited to the study of the four years of Connecticut Coppers. Examples of his broad activities into the entire scope of Early American coinage may be found in the pages of "The American Journal of Numismatics", such as his articles entitled: A Boston Hard Times Token (Vol. 35, P. 105); A Pattern Baltimore Piece in Copper (Vol. 35, P. 118); Immunis Columbia of 1786 with Eagle Reverse (Vol. 36, P. 12); and A New Rosa Americana Two-Pence (Vol. 38, P. 42).

In September 1946, The American Numismatic Society borrowed a 408 page manuscript on Early American coins written by Thomas P. Hall, and a photographic copy of it was made on microfilm for use in the Society's library. No record was made of the original owner, and its present whereabouts cannot now be ascertained. This notebook contains accession records and all sorts of miscellanea numismatica concerning Hall's wide collection of Colonials, with one exception, - the Connecticut series. A photograph included in this notebook is presumed to be that of the author; however, positive attribution of the picture has not yet been made. Connecticut Coppers are not even mentioned in this notebook, because he recorded all of them in another book containing 288 numbered pages .

A public search for Dr. Hall's notebook on the Connecticut series started with the publication of a query in the October-December 1961 issue of CNL (Sequential page page 36). What we did not know at that time was that less than ten years after Dr. Hall's sudden death in May, 1909, his Connecticut notebook and 126 specimens from his collection of Connecticut coinage had been purchased and were safely stored in the Connecticut State Library. They reside today at the State Museum of Connecticut History at Hartford.

In 1892 Dr. Hall privately published in Boston a 56-page booklet, 7 by 9 inches in size, entitled: "A Descriptive List of the Coppers Issued by Authority, for the State of Connecticut, for the year 1787". This modest imprint was intended to be the first of four similar publications to cover the entire series, but none other was ever issued due to the author's physical infirmities . Today it is an excessively rare item. Original copies may be seen at American Numismatic Society, Yale University and Harvard University, but not at the Library of Congress because it was never copyrighted in Washington.

In 1919 "The American Journal of Numismatics", Vol. 53, published the definitive work on Connecticut Coppers written by Henry Clay Miller and entitled *The State Coinage of Connecticut*. The author acknowledged that Hall's pioneer work printed 27 years previously contained a description of the then known varieties and combinations of the year 1787. What Miller did not acknowledge, however, was that he had access to Hall's post-1892 notes, the very ones to be found today at the State Museum at Hartford. Proof of this fact is found, for example, in Miller's description of reverse r.5 which reads, "This very rare reverse is not found in Hall's printed list. In his later notes he records finding a specimen after twenty years search." Even Frederick A. Canfield and Hillyer Ryder, who prepared the five page "Additions and Corrections" to Miller, had access to Hall's later notebook. For example, they stated that Miller's legend for reverse R of 1788 was wrong and Hall's was right. So they too, obviously, found Hall's later notes indispensable.

Hall continued to update the notebook himself until a few years prior to his death. He noted purchases made as late as January 1904. His studious researches into the series and his classification system modified from Crosby became the prototype of Miller's definitive work which appeared in print just one decade after Hall's death. In 1920 the ANS published a reprint edition of 200 copies of Miller's monumental work, and of course, it has long since been out of print. Several other reprints of "Miller" have appeared over the years, the most recent being a 1981 version by Sanford J. Durst that includes, in addition to the original "Miller" and the "Additions and Corrections", all of the photographic plates and narrative from the now famous EAC/Pine Tree Auction catalog of February 15, 1975. It must be remembered that "Miller" is a collective work, consolidating earlier writings by many students of the Connecticut series, chief of which were Dr. Hall's printed pamphlet and manuscript notebook. Over the years a number of writers have vented their dislike of the Miller attribution scheme without realizing that they were aiming their comments at the wrong person!

It has been stated that the Dr. Hall collection was purchased by Carl Wurtzbach, and later sold intact to Virgil Brand. (New Netherlands Catalog, Dec. 3, 1968, Lot 324). It is a proven fact that the Hall collection was never owned intact by Mr. Brand, the super-collector and millionaire brewer from Chicago. The latter could only have owned a few miscellaneous pieces purchased from Hall prior to his terminal illness. Hall's entire collection of 127 combinations was purchased by the State of Connecticut, and they are still on exhibition at the State Capitol. There are 25 of them dated 1785; 16 dated 1786; 58 dated 1787; and 28 dated 1788.

Today some collections have coppers with Hall's attributions painted on them, but that does not prove that these pieces were actually owned by Dr. Hall, catalogers to the contrary notwithstanding. Pieces are occasionally encountered which have both Hall and Miller attributions. The ANS collection of superb Connecticut Coppers abounds with such pieces identified with dual attribution fractions. The numbered obverse is the numerator, while the lettered reverse is the denominator of each fraction. Hall's attributions are neatly painted in the left field on the obverse side, and the Miller attributions are painted to the right.

Dr. Thomas Hall died 75 years ago, and his obituary published in "The American Journal of Numismatics" was reprinted in CNL, as follows:

"The very sudden death, in May (1909) last at his summer home in Chelmsford, Mass., of Dr. Thomas Hall, for many years a member of the Boston Numismatic Society, leaves a vacancy in the ranks of prominent collectors of Americana. Dr. Hall's cabinet was remarkable in many ways; . . . , and especially the Connecticut Cents, was remarkable for its completeness; he had in preparation a monograph of some of these, and a portion of it he had privately printed; but we fear that physical infirmity prevented him from bringing it to a conclusion. . . . The disposition of his cabinet has not as yet been discussed by his family, but it is known that Dr. Hall hoped that some at least of its very complete groups might be kept together, and never dispersed."

It is comforting to know that Hall's family wishes concerning the non-dispersal of his Connecticut collection was eventually concluded nine years later. In 1918 the Hall collection of Connecticut Coppers and his manuscript notebook covering the entire series, 1785-1788, came into the possession of Mr. Robert Bird of Canton, Massachusetts, who added a few pieces to the collection. After Bird's death, the collection and manuscript was purchased by Frank H. Shumway, a native son of Windham, Connecticut. On January 21, 1919 Mr. Shumway, then living in Mattapan, Massachusetts, negotiated the sale of the coins and notebook to Mr. George S. Godard, Librarian of the Connecticut State Library, for the sum of \$350.00. And this is the story as to how these numismatic treasures came to be enshrined in Memorial Hall in Hartford, Connecticut. The notation by Godard describing the history of the Hall notebook and his collection of Connecticut Coppers which appears on the inside front cover of the notebook is reproduced on the frontispiece of this issue of CNL.

● ● Editor's comment:

We have reproduced from microfilm five selected pages from Dr. Hall's "Later Notes" on the Connecticuts. One page from the years 1785, 1787, & 1788 and two pages from the year 1786. Comparisons of these pages with

the printed pages from "Miller" will quickly show the degree to which Henry C. Miller relied on the Hall notebook as he prepared his text for "The State Coinage of Connecticut." We have included Dr. Hall's discussion (Hall, p.54) of the difficulties he encountered in distinguishing between the various die varieties of the Obverse 5's of 1786; dies which we realize today were produced by methods unknown to either Hall or Miller. (See CNL, pages 423 - 434; The Incredible Diesinking of Abel Buell).

The numismatic historian will find in Hall's notebook fascinating data on his contacts with fellow numismatists -- some of the names which appear include Canfield, Maris, Hays, Randall, Scott, Betts, Phelps, Nichols, and others, but to the general reader it will present exasperation due to the many changes, missing links and obvious errors of fact in the Connecticut series; however, one must keep in mind that Hall's notebook, in addition to serving to inventory his personal collection, was only a preliminary draft for a manuscript under preparation for ultimate publication -- an event terminated by the author's sudden death which "prevented him from bringing it to a conclusion."

These five reproduced pages which follow are - in some places - quite difficult to read. Dr. Hall used a fine quill pen and a less than bold hand with the result that photographic reproduction is difficult and some of the tiny fine lines almost impossible to read. Brief notations in a different hand appear in a few places and may have been editorial reminders added - perhaps - by Canfield or Ryder while they worked on the "Additions and Corrections" to "Miller". In several places Dr. Hall calls attention to C. Wyllis Bett's 1886 "Counterfeit Halfpence" article (see for example at the top of Hall - Page 101) and in numerous places mentions specimens of special note in collections other than his own. All of this makes for great historical numismatic trivia but presents nothing new in terms of unpublished numismatic data. This observation is not meant to detract from the importance of Dr. Hall's notebook -- his "Later Notes" on Connecticuts -- that is, in fact, a great missing link in the history of numismatic research on the Connecticut series.

JCS



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1785 Obverse 1.

AUCTORI. CONNEC.

Mr. Crosby records one die of this Obverse, combined with Reverse E.  
Fillet ends between the bust and legend.

## Combination F

See page 114 for Rev. F.

1785 Chruse 2.

AUCTORI: CONNEC: (First colon clear of head)

Mr. Crosby records one die of this Obverse, combined with Reverse A. Apparently no ribbon joining the ends of wreath; a prominent berry occupying the usual position of the ribbon.

Combinations  $\frac{2}{n-1}$   $\frac{2}{n-2}$

See page 112 for Rev. A

1785 Olveise 3.

A'RCTORI: CONNEC: (Colon close on head)

Mr. Crosby takes records 5 dies of this Oboeare, combined with  
Reverse B, C & T, upon page 372 Mr. Crosby adds Reverse A.

3 - 1 A single sprig emerges from near the top of upper front leaf  
(blattoidea) arching backward over forehead. Tops of C & T and R & T upon  
the same plane. A prominent depression over cheek. The male  
preserves the following characteristics:— the upper curved line  
terminates abruptly at the lower left corner and does not connect  
with the adjacent line. Five periods are shown within the upper  
curved line, four being above fluting and one in the lower left com.  
In the center beneath the throat last or four dots or periods  
sprig. It is a very common plant but it is a pretty one.

$$\text{Combinations: } \frac{3-1}{1-3} \quad \frac{3-1}{1}$$

See page 112 for Rev. A  
See page 116 for Rev. B

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## 1786 Obverse 5.

The dies of Obverse 5, show but trifling distinguishing features in legends and punctuations. Sharp specimens show differences in the busts and mails, which require special notice before attempting their different description.

Upon some dies the leaves of wreath are outlined by a sharply defined line, in others the edges are rough and irregular and again the edges are smooth but not outlined.

In some dies stemmed berries are found within the wreath, wanting in others. Mr. Crosbys illustration of Ob. 7. Plate V shows outlined leaves and stemmed berries.

The lowest curl, which is situated in front of, and a trifle below the point of union of the fillet ends, will be found surrounding a berry, terminating in a berry or without berry.

With two exceptions the upper border of mail beneath the nose will be found fluted.

Two times rarely, curved lines are seen below the fluted border above referred to, separated by an elevated blank space; in one die only this interspace is ornamented.

Connected with the center of the lower curved line is a blunt projection downward.

In some dies nothing is shown in the field between the lower curved line and the meeting, in others a semi-circular line extends from the extremes of the lower curved line, partially surrounding the blunt projection and again the semi-circular line is not defined, a semi-spherical elevation partially surrounding the blunt projection.

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## 1786 Obverse 5.

AVCTORI: CONNE C: Marbles bust to left.

Mr. Crosby records 9 dies of this Obverse, adding upon page 215  
the 10<sup>th</sup> of the "Hercules Head", combined with Reverses  
B, C, E, F, G, H, & I.

5-1 Coarse, serrated border. The upper <sup>border</sup> of mail beneath the throat  
(or nose) consists of a double curved ~~concave~~ <sup>convex</sup> line, and <sup>down</sup> not fluted above.  
The tail of the R extends disproportionately to right. (We  
have not found this R punch used with any other Obverse of 1786.)

Break through ORI.

Estimation

 $\frac{5-1}{H-1}$ 

For Reverse H-1 see page 121

5-2 Upper periods of both colons low. Last colon sloping; upper period  
(or nose) nearest C. Four leaves on back of wreath, partially outlined.

Three stemmed berries within wreath. Lowest curl terminates  
in a berry, which it partially encloses. In semi-circular line.

Fine nailing. The letters VC in AVCTORI, commonly found wear or abrade  
away, enhanced, the effect <sup>thereby</sup> ~~of injury~~ <sup>is</sup> a die.

The break extending downward from left of O in CONNE.

See special note page 268

Estimations  $\frac{5-2}{H-1}$     $\frac{5-2}{I}$     $\frac{5-2}{O-2}$     $\frac{5-2}{T}$

For Reverse H-1 see page 121  
For Reverse I see page 122  
For Reverse O see page 124  
For Reverse T see page 122

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## 1787 Obverse 3.

AUCTORI CONN: C.

Mr. Crosby records one die of this Obverse, combined with Rev. C.

See Crosby Plate v-12

Combination  $\frac{3}{\alpha}$ 

For Reverse G see page 132

## 1787 Obverse 4

AUCTORI CONN: C.

Mr. Crosby records one die of this Obverse, combined with Rev. G.

"Horned Bust" See Dr. Maris plate.

Dr. Maris illustrates Obv. 4 combined with Rev. M and Obv. 6 with reverse G. Dr. Maris informs me this was an error, the reverses having been transposed.

Frequently found without the bust.

Combination  $\frac{4}{\alpha}$ 

For Reverse G see page 133

## 1787 Obverse 5

AUCTORI CONN: C.

Mr. Crosby records one die of this Obverse combined with Reverse PCombination  $\frac{5}{\alpha}$ 

For Reverse P see page 134

## 1787 Obverse 6

AUCTORI CONN: C.

Mr. Crosby records two dies of this Obverse, combined with Rev. M.6-1 Laughing Head. See Dr. Maris plate. <sup>Second</sup> bust placed above top leaf of crest.  
Tear head. Extremity of nose, opposite C. Star & letter puncher apparently  
Combination  $\frac{6-1}{M}$  front of face & neck sharply outlined. For Reverse M see page 1336-2 Second period distinct to left of wreath. Extremity of nose opposite  
upright of T. Break through stars beneath bust to mailing.

Combination

 $\frac{6-2}{M}$ 

For Reverse M see page 133

Mr. Wyllis Beta in his article upon counterfeit Halfpence, calls attention to the fact that all the dies of 1788 mailed bust right have the wreath tied in a bow with the exception of die 4.

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## 1788 Obverse 4.

AUCTORIX \* CONNECT Mailed bust facing right

Mr. Crosby records one die of this Obverse, combined with Reverse B & K.

Stars with six points. Some specimens show increased 88 over head.

4-1 Second star near top left of wreath. CONNECT, widely spaced. Hair arranged in concentric lines. Wreath ~~not~~ tied with a bow. The early impressions were combined with Rev. B. the die more or less contained with Rev. K. For Reverse B-1 see page 198  
 Combinations  $\frac{4-1}{B-1}$   $\frac{4-1}{K}$  No berries within wreath For Reverse K see page 200

4-2 Second star above & nearly spaced between top left of wreath & E. Hair 6, in bunches, (stars) low. Wreath not tied with a bow. Hair arranged in divergent lines diverging from a point near center of back of bust. No berries within wreath.

Combination  $\frac{4-2}{R}$  For Reverse R, see page 202

## 1788 Obverse 5.

\*AUCTORIX \* CONNECT Mailed bust facing right.

Mr. Crosby records one die of this Obverse combined with Reverse B.

Stars with six points. Hair tied with a bow.

R & S connect. Wide spacing between N's.

See Dr. Maris plate. also our constellations

Combination  $\frac{5}{B-2}$

For Reverse B-2, see page 198

## 1788 Obverse 6.

AUCTORIX \* CONNECT Mailed bust facing right.

Mr. Crosby records one die of this Obverse, combined with Reverse H\*

Stars with six points. Wreath tied with a bow

Break, or imperfection connecting lips with chin and nose

Combination  $\frac{6}{H^*}$

For Reverse H\*, see page 200

**Earliest Illustration of the 1776 Continental Currency Coinage****from Eric P. Newman; St. Louis, MO**

I have located what I believe to be the earliest illustration and reference to the 1776 Continental Currency Coinage. It is fascinating because it contains a German translation of the legend on the piece. The translation "Mind your business" re-translates into "Thinking what is ahead of you." The translation of "Continental Currency" is re-translated into "Americaland Money" or into "Territory of America Money."



- 3) An entwined ribbon forming a circle, each small circle has the name of one of the 13 States; in the center are the words "CONGRESS VON AMERICA" around "WIR SIND EINS." 4) The words "AMERICANISCHE LANDES MUNTZE 1776" surround a picture of the sun shining on a sundial reading "Ich Fliehe" and "Bedenkt was ihr Vorhabt."

The source - a German publication "Allgemeines historisches Taschenbuch" (Everyones History Pocketbook) was prepared by Matthias Christian Sprengel and published in Berlin, Germany in 1784 by the firm of Haude & Spener.

Previously, the earliest known reference to the Continental Currency Coinage was the description in Chemical Essays by Richard Watson, London, 1786, Volume IV, pages 135-137. (See Crosby "Early Coins of America" pages 305-306).

Another writer, prior to Crosby, had taken note of the description in Chemical Essays and had taken issue with it. In the Thursday January 1, 1789 issue of Independent Chronicle and the Universal Advertiser (Boston), page 2, column 2, appears the following observation:

The following extract from the learned Bishop Watson's Chemical Essays, (Published in 1786) Vol. 4, page 136, shows how easily strange errors are introduced into the writings even of careful men, when they write on any subject relative to distant countries. It is probable that some workman amused himself with copying one of the small bills emitted by Congress, into a die or mould, and then impressed or cast a piece of Pewter such as the Bishop has described. -- If the author of that work should publish a future edition it is hoped that clause will be omitted.

Then follows the complete text from Chemical Essays. The editor of the Independent Chronicle notwithstanding, another edition of Chemical Essays did follow containing the identical report (the 1791 edition) which would be reported by Crosby in "Early Coins of America." Evidently Crosby was not aware of the first edition (1786) of Chemical Essays.

● ● Editor's note:

If any of our Patrons know of any earlier literary reference to the Continental Currency Coinage, please bring it to our attention.

